

and fighting for children with disabilities. He continued his humanitarian work later in his career by supporting efforts to fight AIDS in Africa during his final term. Bono, lead singer of U2, even praised Helms' work by saying "without his taking a stance on AIDS, we would have lost a lot more lives."

From his humanitarian work, to office's renowned constituent services, to his consistently passionate legislative work on Capitol Hill, Senator Helms, North Carolina's longest serving Senator was a man well deserving of this honor. He was a great North Carolinian and a great American. For these reasons, it is appropriate to ensure that future generations remember his legacy by having this building bear his name.

RECOGNIZING BILL LAUER FOR HIS LIFETIME OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize William H. "Bill" Lauer for receiving Devotion to Children's Community Legacy Award. As a native of the Washington area, Bill has followed the age-old advice to "bloom where you are planted" and set a model example for using your talents to help not only yourself but also your neighbors.

Devotion to Children is a Northern Virginia nonprofit organization dedicated to working with other community partners to provide high-quality education and child-care programming for low-income families and children under the age of six. The Legacy award is presented annually at its Red, Heart and Soul Gala to recognize someone who has promoted public awareness of the organization and local needs, provided funding for programs and services, collaborated with other community organizations to support local children, or engaged in other activities that support the organization's mission. Bill Lauer has done each of those and so much more.

To many people, Bill may be known more for his professional accomplishments. He has spent the last four decades working in the residential and commercial real estate market. Bill worked for some of the region's premier homebuilders early in his career, including Gulf Reston, which led the visionary development for the new town of Reston. Bill founded Tetra Partners in 1981 and has amassed a distinguished record in the real estate industry. He is a former president and Life Director of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association, which recognized him with its highest honor, the Emil Keen Award, for 25 years of exemplary work within the industry. He is a past president and board director for the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties Northern Virginia Chapter. He also has played a role with several of the local chambers of commerce and was a charter member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance.

Those are no doubt noteworthy achievements, but it is Bill's charitable activities that have proven invaluable to the community and that serve as an inspiration to a new genera-

tion of community leaders. Bill has been an active and financial supporter of local Habitat for Humanity and Ronald McDonald House, and he is a member of the board of Reston Interfaith. I was pleased to have him serve on the Affordable Housing Task Force that I launched during my tenure as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Through that effort, he worked to help expand rental and home ownership opportunities for low-income families. Bill and I also worked together on my homeless prevention initiative, and he continues to serve on the governing board of the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. Thanks to the efforts of Bill and the Partnership, Fairfax has been one of the few communities to actually reduce homelessness during the Great Recession.

And, of course, Bill is active with Devotion to Children. During the past decade, Bill has worked to expand awareness of the growing need for affordable child care and early childhood resources, and he has not only supported those efforts with his own resources but also recruited his colleagues in the private sector to join in the cause. Bill also has helped develop new partnerships with Devotion to Children, Reston Interfaith and the Reston YMCA, including an evening child care program to help those parents taking nighttime classes.

Mr. Speaker, based on Bill's lifetime of professional and charitable accomplishments, this recognition could easily have been renamed the "devotion to community" award. I want to personally thank Bill for his tireless efforts to assist at-risk families and children across Northern Virginia, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bill on this well-deserved recognition. His work is a reminder to us all that our community's strength and success is the product of every child and every family having an opportunity to succeed.

IN HONOR OF MR. OSCAR GUMUCIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Oscar Gumucio a profoundly respected friend, leader and advocate of the Greater Cleveland Community, and in recognition of his dedication to civic engagement, education and health care.

As the educational specialist for the MetroHealth Pediatric Hispanic Clinic, Mr. Gumucio is the advocate for Hispanic children when they need help with medical, psychosocial or even school issues. Many times, language and cultural barriers make it hard for Hispanic immigrants to stay healthy or excel in school; Mr. Gumucio does everything he can to remove those barriers or help children overcome them.

Mr. Gumucio developed his sincerity and devotion to the betterment of others when he was a Jesuit priest in the Catholic Church. His compassion for the less fortunate, profound knowledge of human behavior and love for everyone he meets have made him a highly respected person in Cleveland's educational, health and religious communities.

Born in Bolivia, Mr. Gumucio received his Doctorate in Philosophy and Master of Divinity

in Argentina, and his master's degree in Spanish literature in Columbia. He taught philosophy at the University of Havana in Cuba and Spanish Literature in Puerto Rico.

Upon leaving the priesthood, Mr. Gumucio eventually moved to Cleveland, where he worked in the Cleveland Municipal School District for 33 years. He is a co-founder of the district's bilingual program, the Mental Health Suicide Prevention Center and the Urban Community School.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the leadership and outstanding achievements of Mr. Gumucio for his work in the Greater Cleveland Community and commitment to MetroHealth and the Hispanic community.

KENT FISHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kent Fisher, a dedicated public servant and community leader from Atchison County, Missouri.

Kent Fisher has served as Atchison County South District Commissioner since November of 1998, filling a two-year unexpired term followed by re-election to three subsequent four year terms. During his tenure as an elected official, Kent has served Atchison County's citizens through numerous natural disasters and reconstruction efforts including Presidentially-declared disasters for flooding and ice storms. He has been an instrumental part of the reconstruction efforts, collaborating with local, state and federal agencies to secure grant funding and ensure the county rebuilds and prospers.

Kent has been involved with various organizations for the betterment of the citizens of Atchison County and Northwest Missouri, including serving as a board member of Community Services of Northwest Missouri, the Fairfax Kiwanis Club, Fairfax Lodge #483, Scottish Rite Bodies of St. Joseph, and the Moila Shrine Temple. Kent is also a Leadership Northwest Missouri Graduate, and Past President of the Northwest Missouri Commissioners Association.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kent Fisher for his service to the citizens of Atchison County and Northwest Missouri. It is an honor to have had the opportunity to work with Kent for the betterment of Atchison County and Northwest Missouri. It is an honor to serve Kent in the United States Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO ALICE HAIGAZIAN BERMAN

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

June 25, 1925–November 12, 2003.

Teacher, mentor, beloved mother and daughter.